



## NASA Next Generation Space Launch Efforts



Space Transportation Directorate . . . Revolutionizing Space Transportation



## X-33 and RLV for the Future

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# X-33 Overview

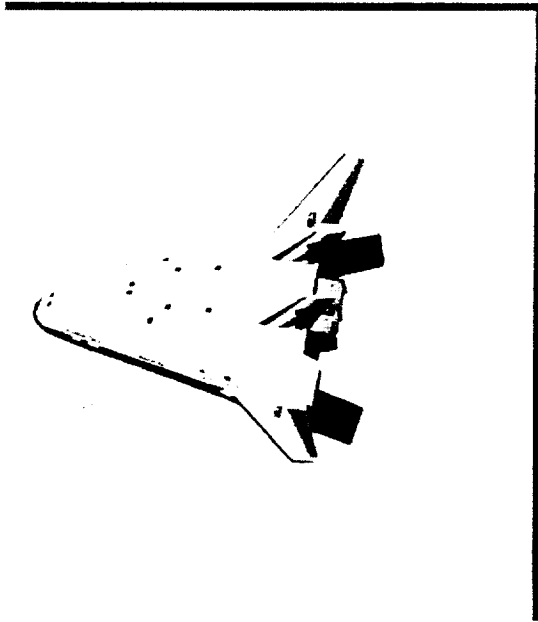
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- In 1996, NASA selected an industry team lead by Lockheed-Martin to build and fly a technology demonstrator single stage to orbit (SSTO) vehicle- designated the X-33.
- Since then, a joint NASA/Industry team has been designing, testing, and building the X-33 vehicle.
- Primary Objectives of the X-33 Program :
  - Demonstrate the Technologies Required for a Next - Generation SSTO System,
  - Demonstrate Reduced Launch Cost, Rapid Launch Turnaround Times, Increased Reliability, and
  - Reduce Technical and Programmatic Risks Sufficient to Encourage Private Financing of the Development and Operation of a Next-generation System.



# X-33 Overview

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- ✧ Flight engines delivery: Dec. 00
- ✧ Protoflight tank test: Apr. - May 01
- ✧ Vehicle rollout: Feb. 02
- ✧ First flight: Fall 02
- ✧ Seven flights planned to Mach 13

✧ X-33 provides airplane-like access to space.  
Stages do not separate and need not be recovered.

✧ X-33 takes off vertically and glides to a horizontal landing like the Space Shuttle.

✧ Uses liquid oxygen and liquid hydrogen propellants

✧ Demonstrate aircraft-like reusability, maintenance and scheduling

✧ Robust metallic TPS system

✧ Linear Aerospike engine

✧ Vehicle health monitoring system

✧ Aerothermal environment prediction verification

✧ Lifting body design

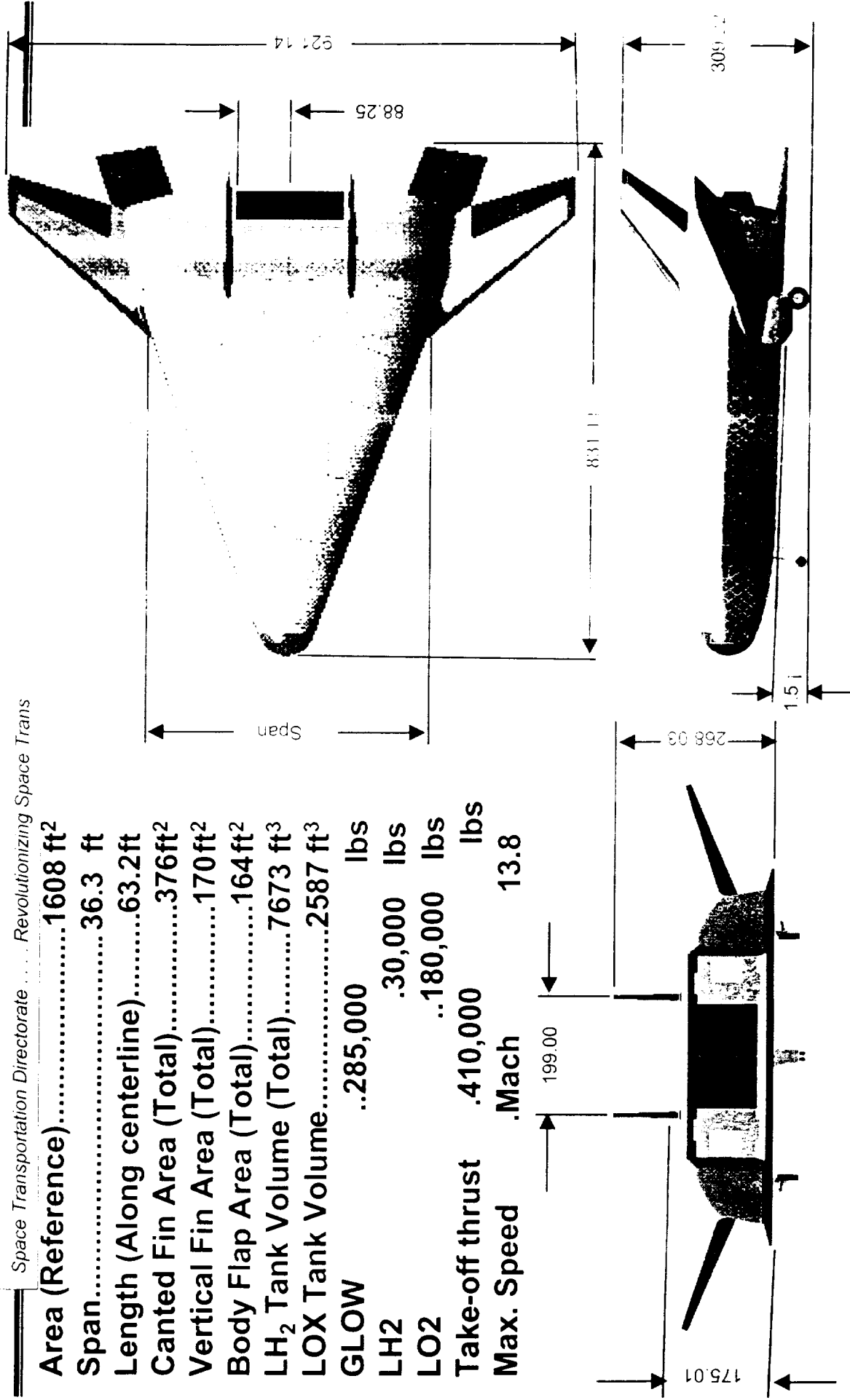


# X-33 3-View



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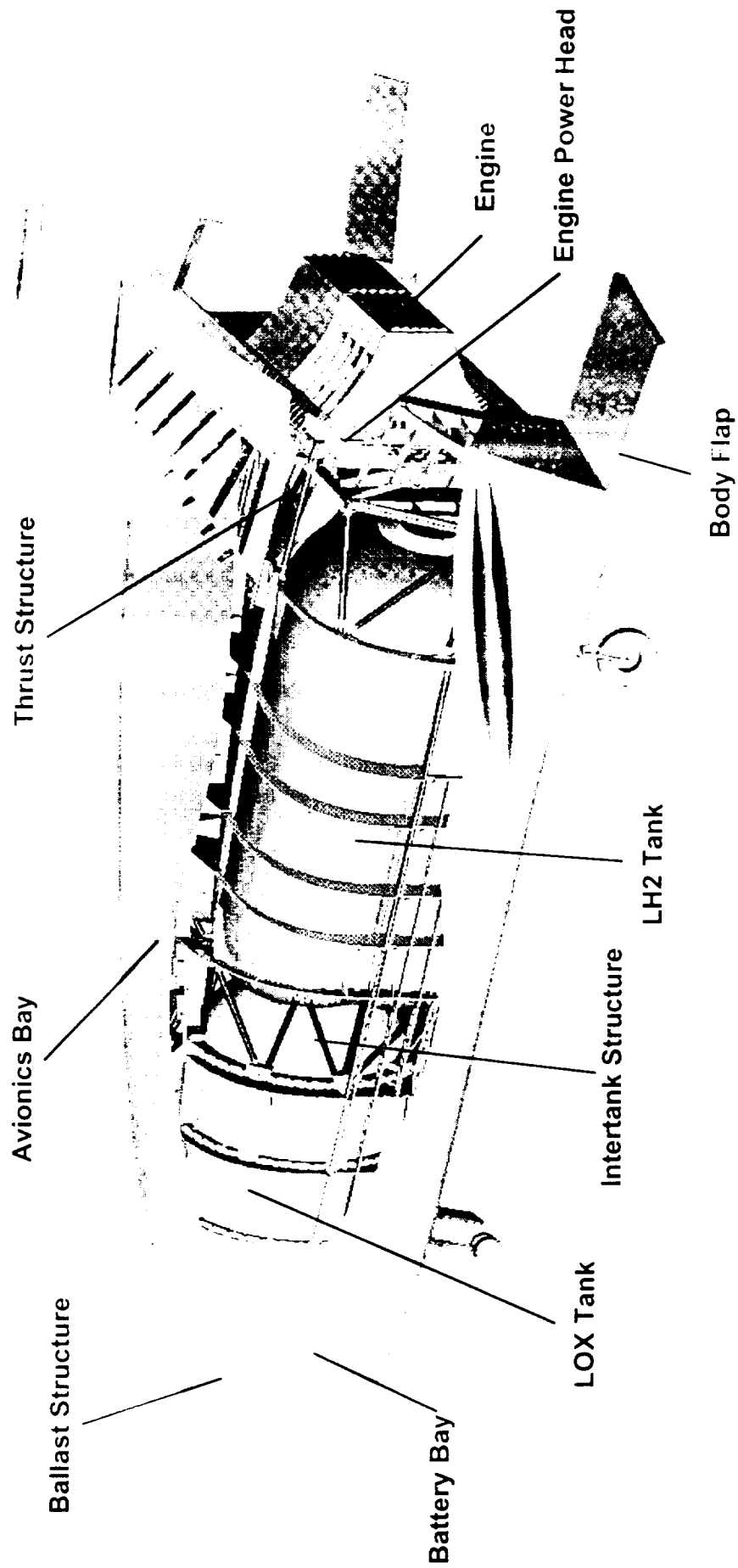
Area (Reference).....	1608 ft <sup>2</sup>
Span.....	36.3 ft
Length (Along centerline).....	63.2ft
Canted Fin Area (Total).....	376ft <sup>2</sup>
Vertical Fin Area (Total).....	170ft <sup>2</sup>
Body Flap Area (Total).....	164ft <sup>2</sup>
LH <sub>2</sub> Tank Volume (Total).....	7673 ft <sup>3</sup>
LOX Tank Volume.....	2587 ft <sup>3</sup>
GLOW	..285,000 lbs
LH2	..30,000 lbs
LO2	..180,000 lbs
Take-off thrust	.410,000 lbs
Max. Speed	.Mach 13.8





# X-33 Internal Arrangement

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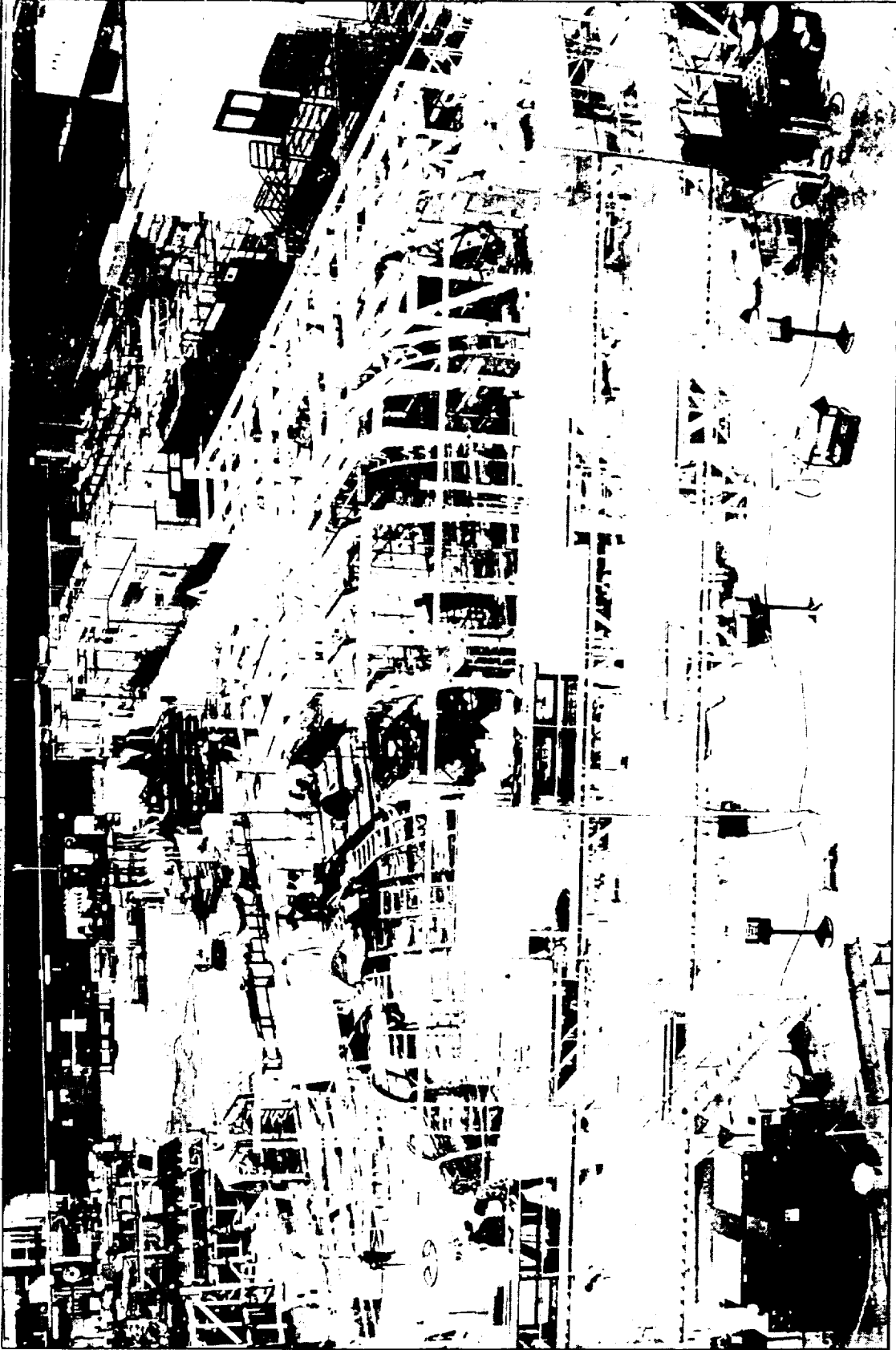




# X-33 Assembly Floor



Advanced Space Transportation Directorate — Research and Development — Technology



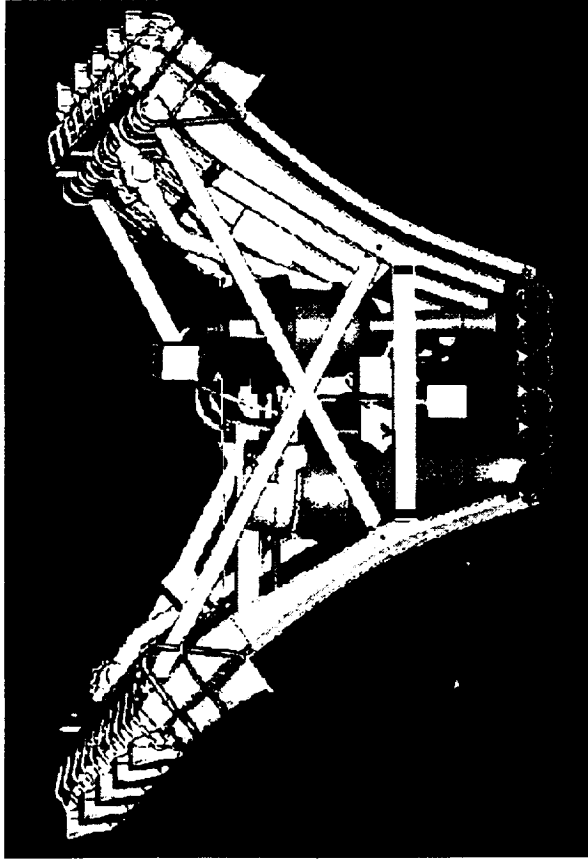
Crews Wiring X-33 s Avionics Bay Within Primary Assembly Structure



# X-33 Linear Aerospike



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- ¥ Enables smallest, lowest cost vehicle
  - ¥ Smallest thrust take-out structure
  - ¥ No gimbal joints or actuators
- ¥ Lowest development risk
  - ¥ Lowest risk cycle, gas generator
  - ¥ Parallel component development

F, sea level/vacuum, Klbf.	206.5/268
Isp, sea level/vacuum, sec.	339/439
Chamber pressure, psia.	857
Area ratio	58
Thrust cells	20
Propellants	Ox/hydrogen
Mixture ratio, o/h	5.5
Cycle	Gas generator
Throttling, % thrust	50 - 105
Thrust/weight	35
Dimensions,	inches
Forward end	133w x 88l
Aft end	46w x 88l
Forward to aft	79

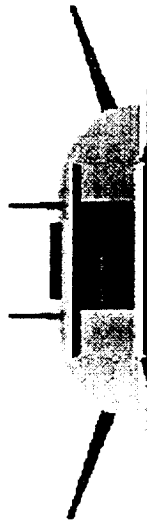


# X-33 Two Engine Thrust Vector Control

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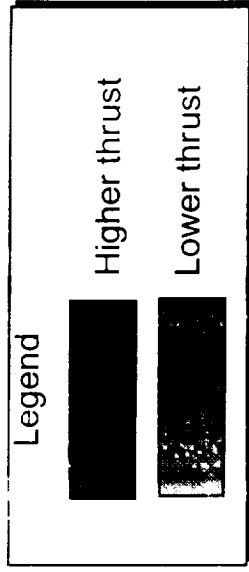
**Positive Pitch Control**



**Positive Roll Control**



**Positive Yaw Control**



**Level Flight**



**Pitch Up**



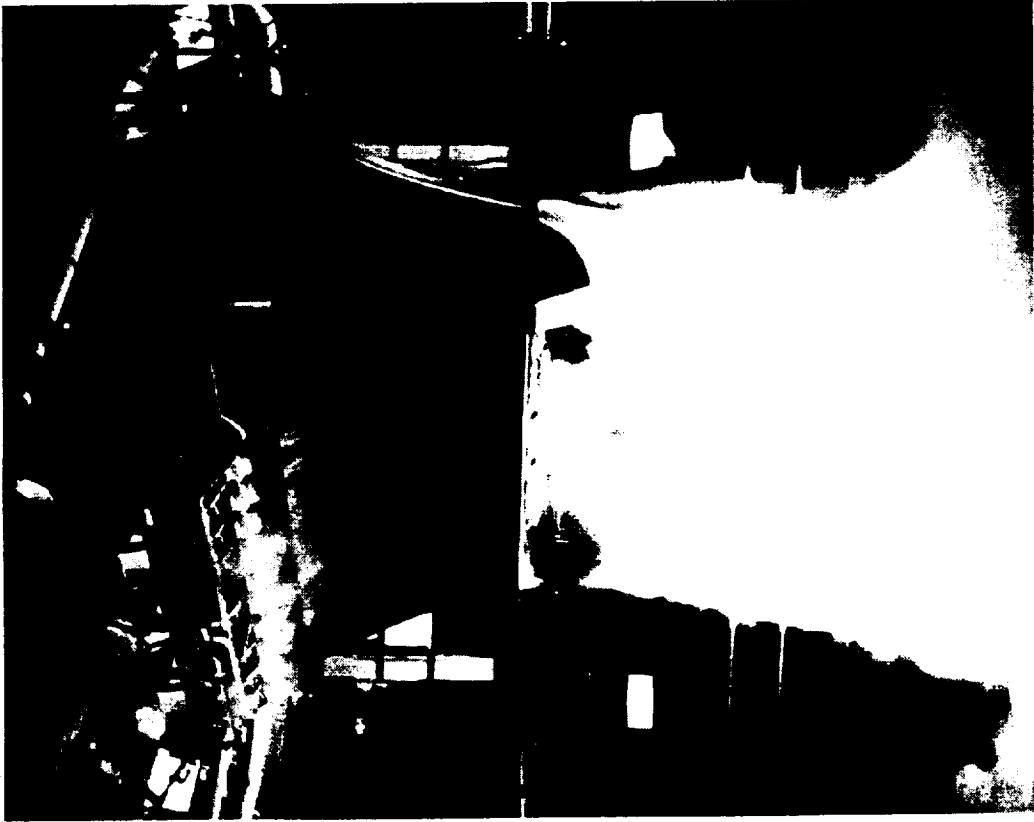
**Pitch Down**





# X-33 Aerospike Testing

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- **Unprecedented success achieved with extensive test program**

- Single thruster - 13 tests, 985 seconds
- Multi-Cell - 10 tests, 49 seconds
- Powerpack - 17 tests, 1506 seconds
- Single Engine - 14 tests, 1513 seconds
- Full power achieved in 6 tests

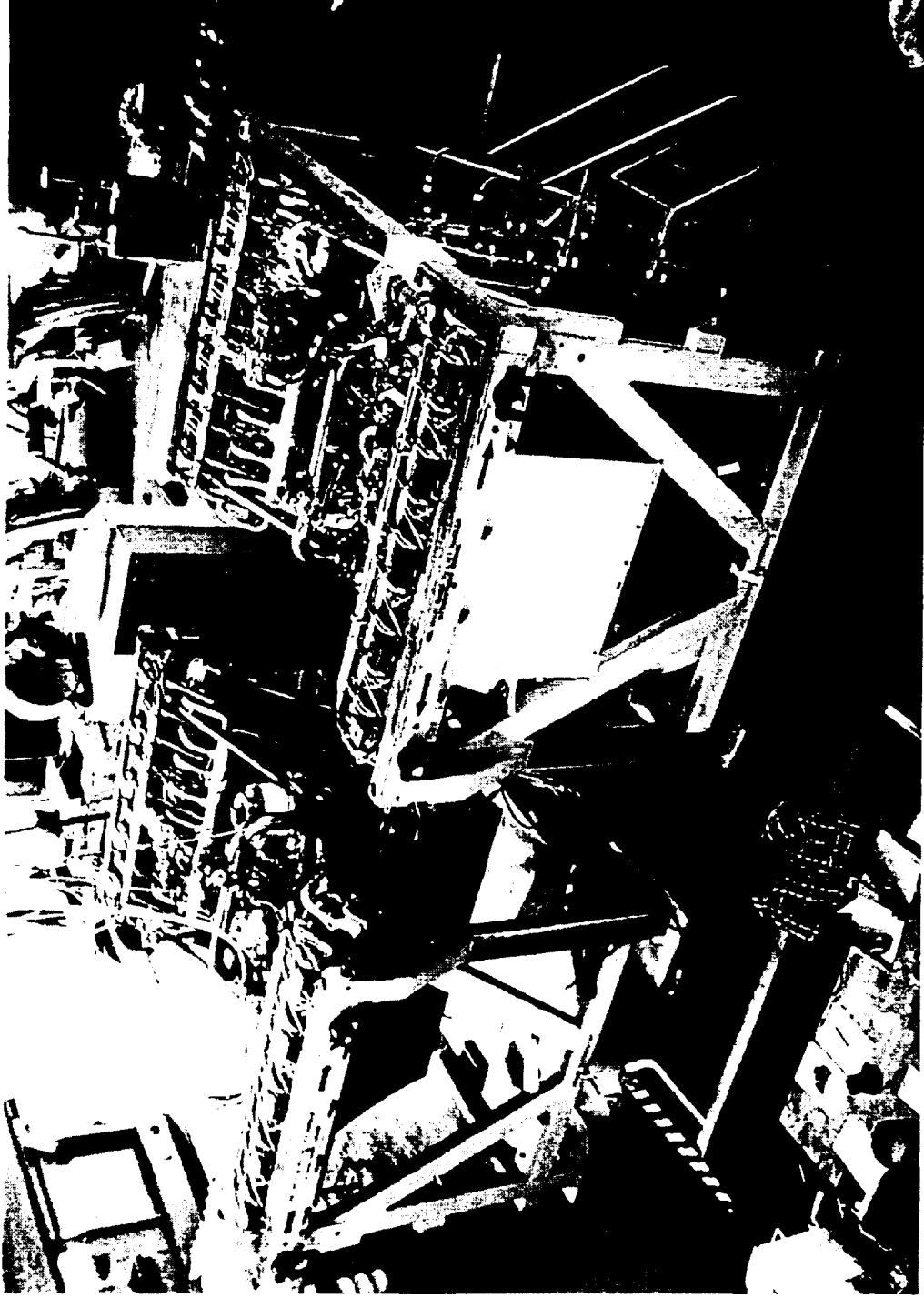




# Engines 2 & 3 Ready To Mate



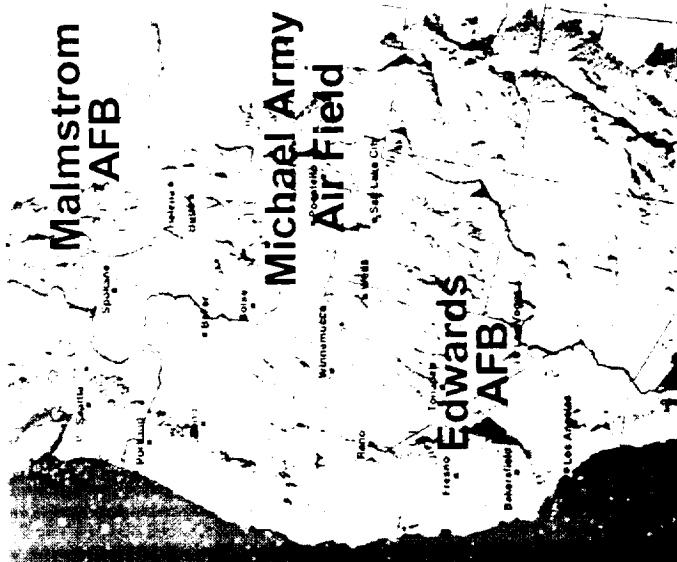
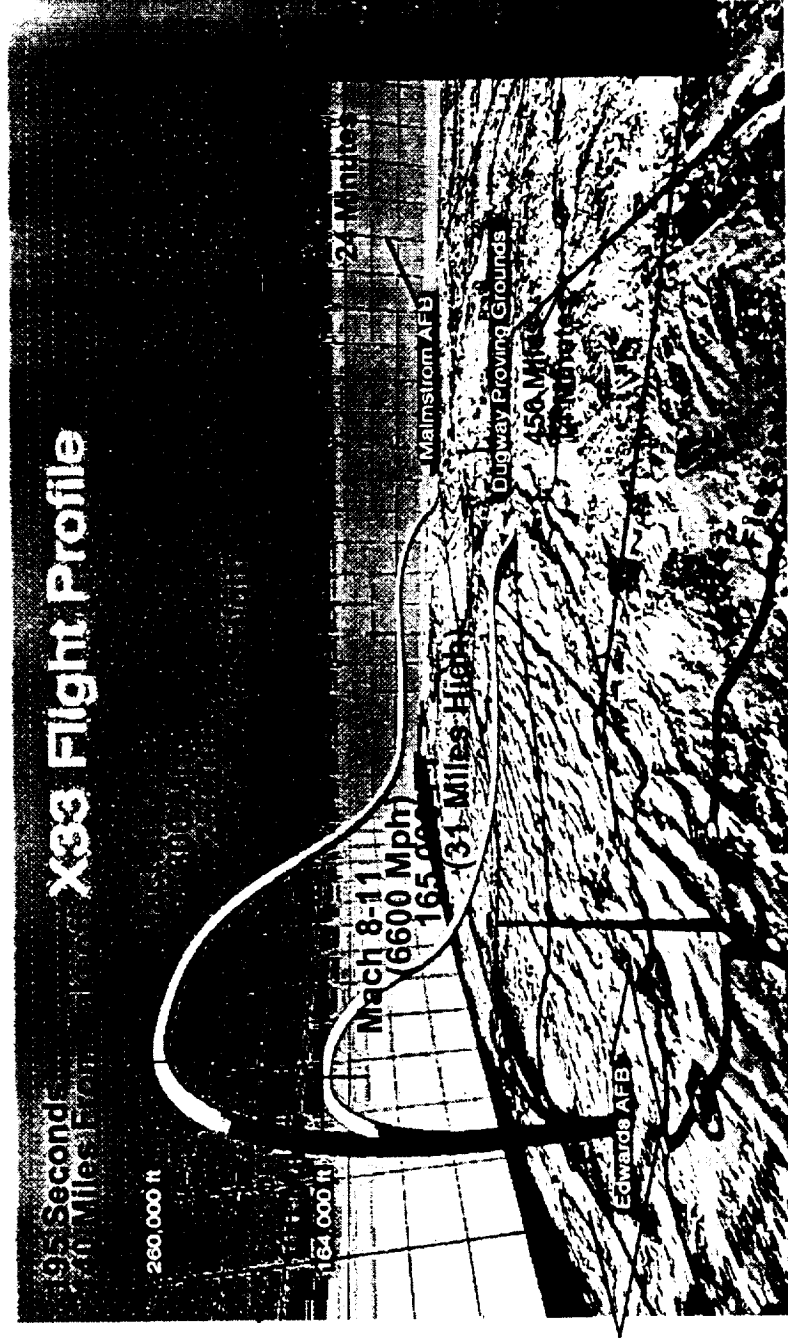
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# X-33 Flight Test

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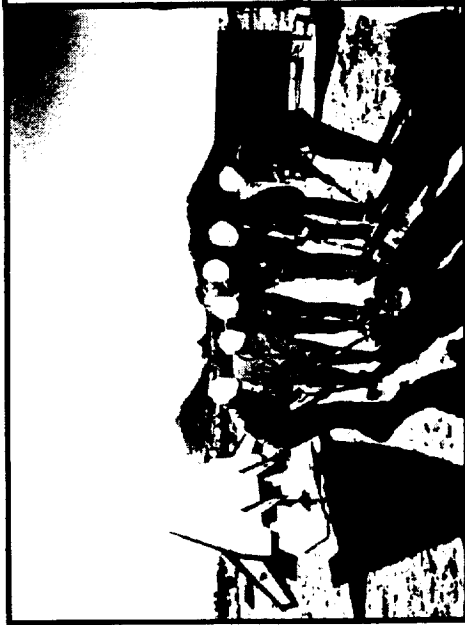


Sites

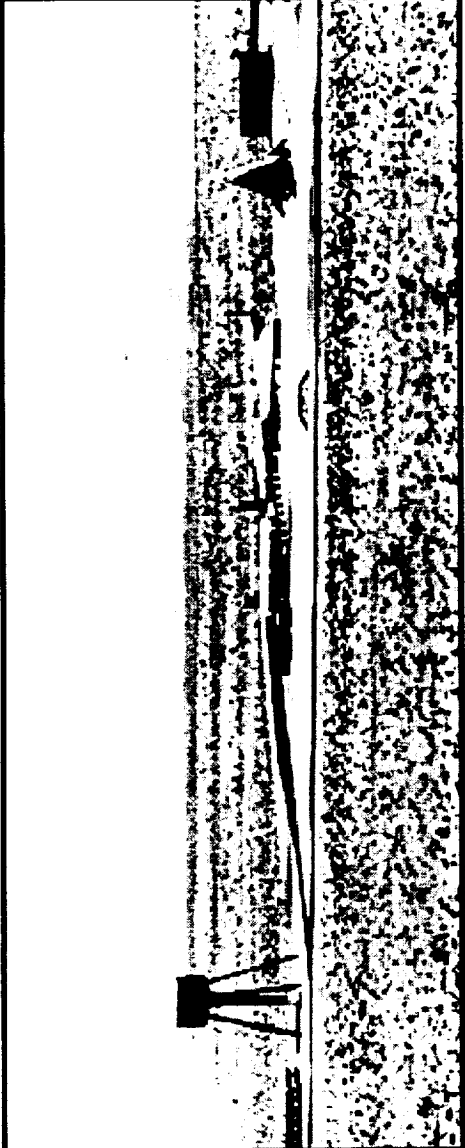
Aircraft-like Operations: Two Seven-Day Turnarounds and  
One Two-Day Turnaround During Flight Test Series



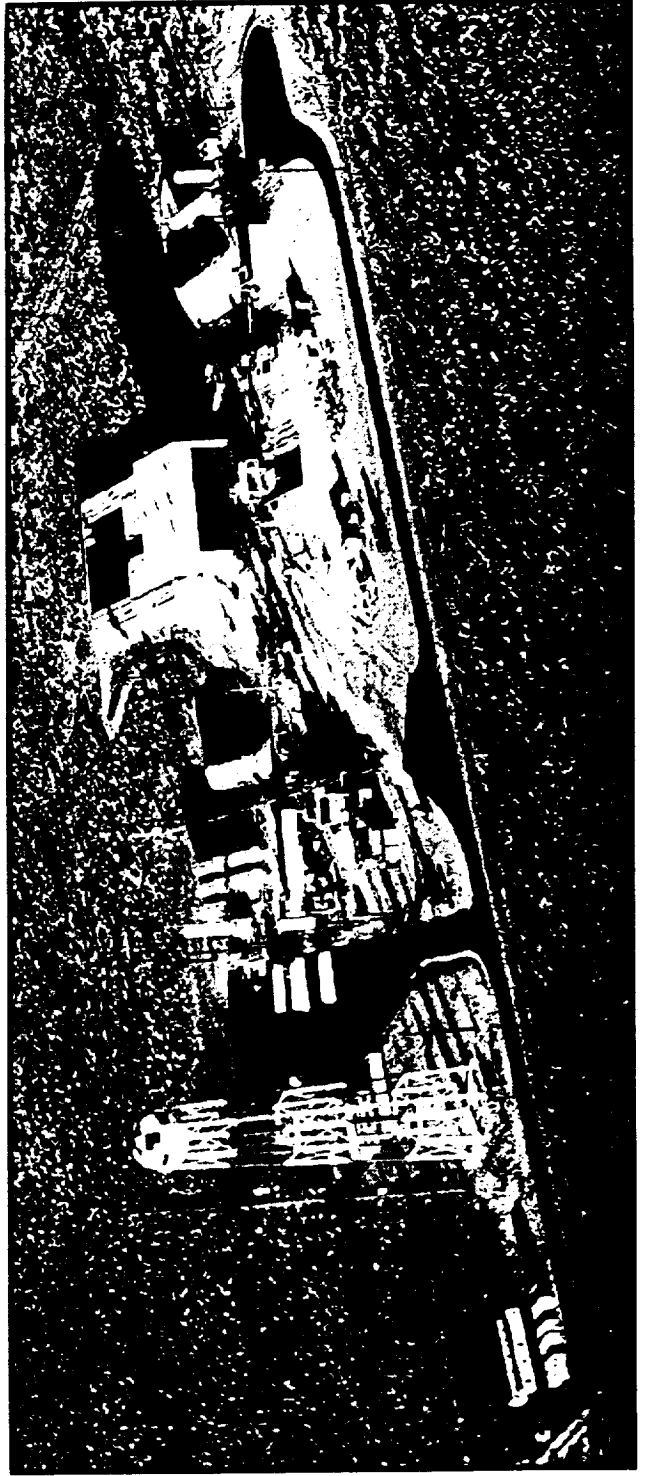
# *X-33 Flight Operations Center*



Ground Breaking Nov '97



Artists Concept



Status: Site Activation Complete



# X-33 to RLV Evolution



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## ¥ Objectives

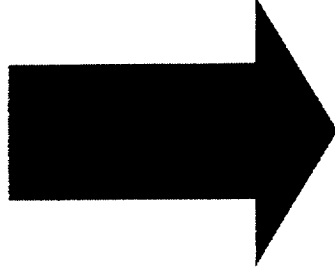
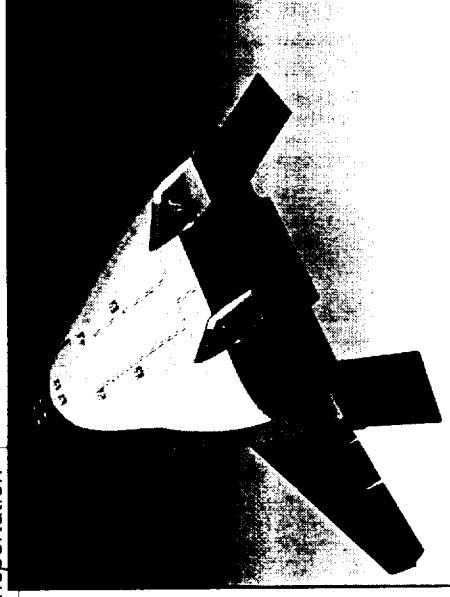
- Build & test a 53-percent scale demonstrator for an SSTD RLV
- Validate design tools & processes

## ¥ Long-term goal:

- Increase launch vehicle reliability and reduce payload cost to low Earth orbit by factor of 10 (\$10,000 to \$1,000 per lb.)

¥ 50,000+lb. Payload to 100NM / 28.5j Orbit

¥ Meet Government and Commercial Launch Requirements

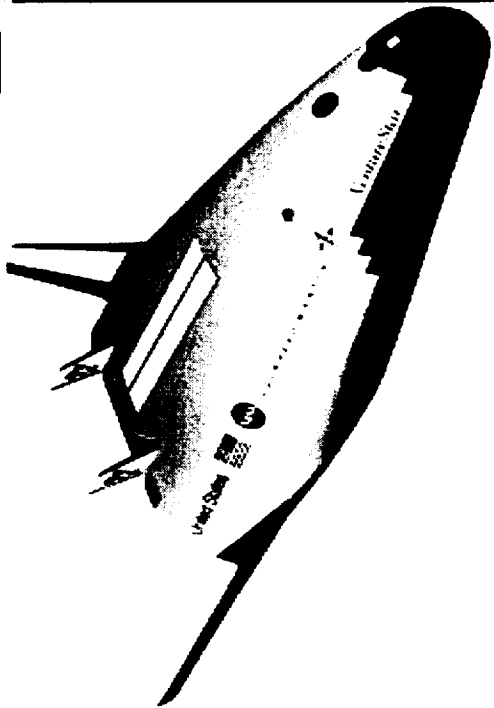




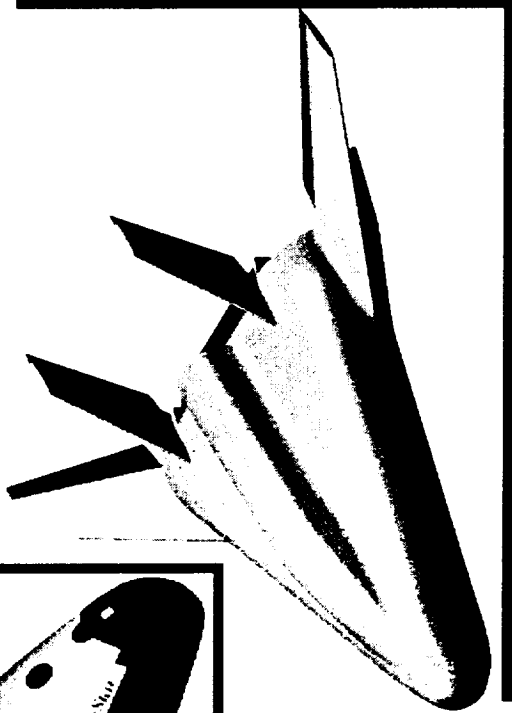
# VentureStar Design Evolution



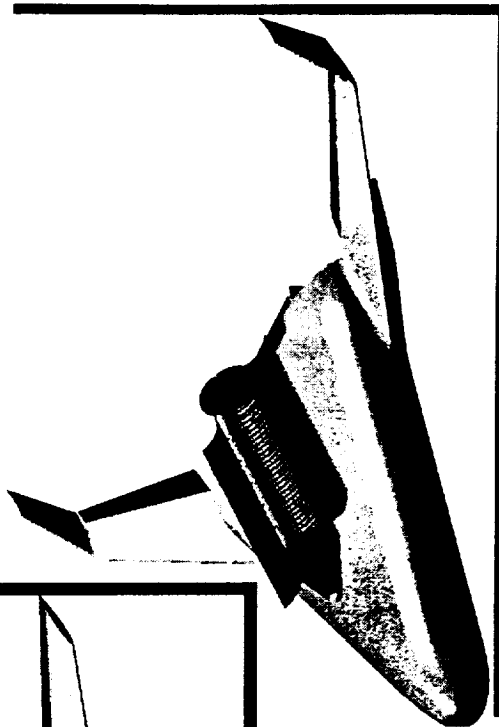
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**X-33 Heritage: Internal Payload Concept**



**Semi-Submerged Payload Concept**



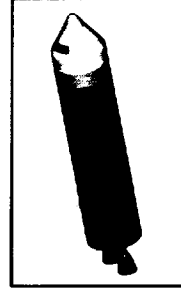
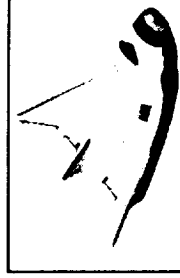
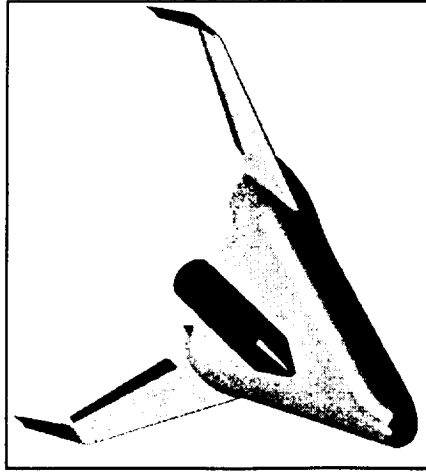
**External Payload Concept**



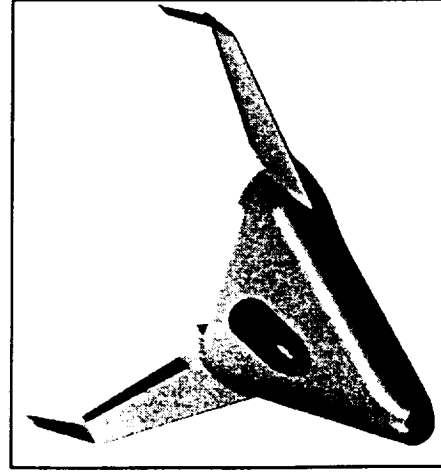
# Operational Flexibility



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- **Standard Mission Module**
  - Reconfigurable for cargo delivery/deploy mission
- **Crew Module/Crew Transfer Vehicle**
  - Designed to carry crew to/from space
  - Nominally flown on-back
  - Provisions for contingency release
  - Possible Independent operation Winged CTV
- **ISS Mission Module(s)**
  - Designed to fly in place of standard mission module
  - Optimized for minimum logistics flights
  - Crew/cargo or cargo only mix
- **Crew/On-orbit Mission Module(s)**
  - Orbit Crew Transfer Vehicle
  - Platform for on-orbit operations
  - Contingency deploy/recovery for crew
  - Potential for free-flight operations





# Minimizing Risk



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- Looking at Opportunities for Additional Risk Mitigation Technologies
- Additional RLV Technologies:
  - Metallic LH2 Tanks (Same FFF)
  - Composite Engine Ramp (Current Metallic)
  - Carbon Carbon Elevons (Metallic & Ceramics)
  - Refine JPL GPS/INS
  - Densified (Colder) Propellants
  - Other Technologies for Low Operations & Life-Cycle Costs







# Future RLV Spaceport



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- **Facilities & systems to enable system operations**

- **Flight segment**
  - ♦ Maintenance
  - ♦ Final assembly
  - ♦ Launch / landing
  - ♦ Payload processing
- **Ground systems**
  - ♦ Propellant supply
  - ♦ Utilities
- **Support infrastructure**
  - ♦ Office buildings
  - ♦ Logistics areas
  - ♦ Security

